

# Ida's Notebook

Ida Risser

district come from retirement communities and are handicapped and need help in order to vote. A lot of young people do not even bother to vote at all.

In these last few weeks before winter really arrives, I've found a few hours to go fishing here on our farm. It is surrounded by the Conestoga River and in many places the banks are very steep. Cottages along the shore have some 30 steps to the waters edge. Usually I can catch several small fish but when I catch a big fish it makes me very happy. Unless — the fish gets away just as I lift it from the water because I did not bring the net. That is a disappointment! I've been using the earthworms that I found under the ears of corn that I gleaned.

As usual, I tallied up the frozen and canned produce from this summer. We used every can and

November might be a dreary month but it brings its own special activities. While I spent 14 hours sitting at our local polling place registering one-third of our registered voters, my husband spent the day walking through the woods looking for signs of turkey in

Snyder County. He tells me that there was three inches of snow on the ground and he saw two deer.

We were not very busy on Election Day but we did get to see some neighbors that we had not seen since the primaries in the spring. Many of the voters in our

freezer box that we could find in September. This year I did some 60 pint of pickles and the same number of applesauce plus 57 jars of jelly and jam. Our shelves and freezers contain more than 300

quarts of food which is a lot for just two people. However, I have been sharing generous amounts with our children when they come to visit.

## Handmade Gifts For Gardeners

- Save on gift wrap, packaging and time during the holiday season by giving IOUs for garden work, indoor plant starts, seeds from heirloom plants, or perennial plant divisions.

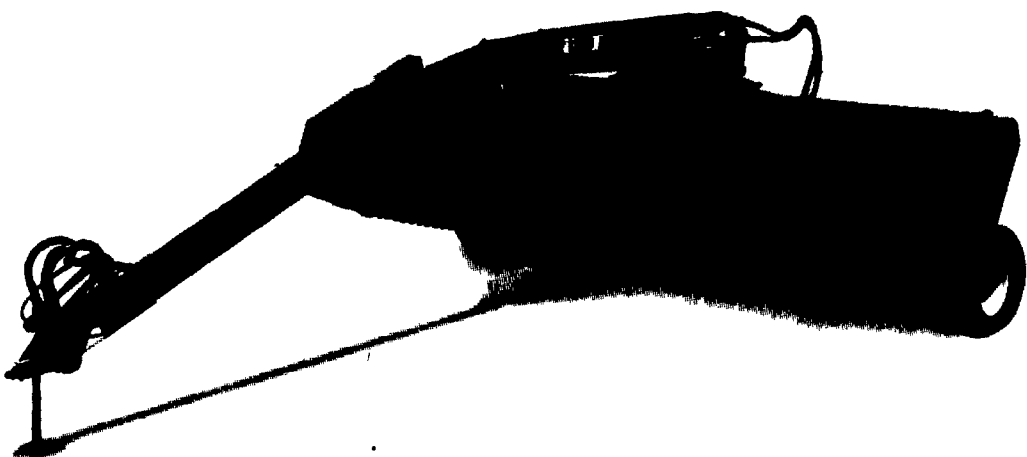
- Ask a group of gardeners what they want for Christmas and more than one will answer "a load of manure." Indulge them — contact a farm or stable and arrange to have a load of this valuable soil conditioner delivered to their backyard. You could also share compost from your pile or a municipal pile.

- For friends with fireplaces or those who like to barbecue, tie together a few branches from the

annual pruning of aromatic woods, such as cherry, apple, or hickory. Add a bow for a seasonal touch.

- Bouquets garnis for flavoring soups can be mixed up in a jiffy from homegrown or storebought dried herbs. Cookbooks carry a variety of recipes most of which include parsley, thyme, bay, and celery leaves. Place one tablespoon of dried herbs in a 4-inch-square scrap of muslin. Tie closed with colorful string or yarn. Pack several in a dark glass jar, baking powder tin, or other used kitchen container covered with holiday paper. Give as a hostess gift or to your favorite gourmet.

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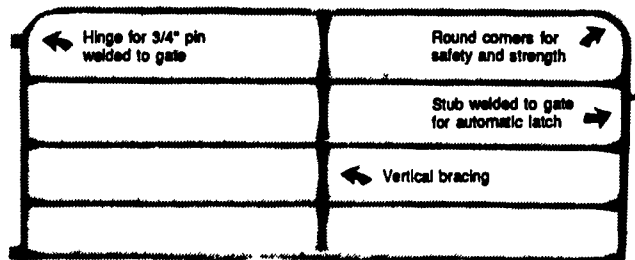


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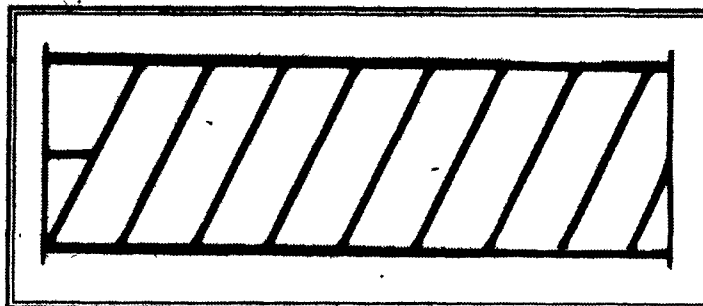
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